

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

www.newriver.usmc.mil

March 12, 2003

Vol. 42 No. 4

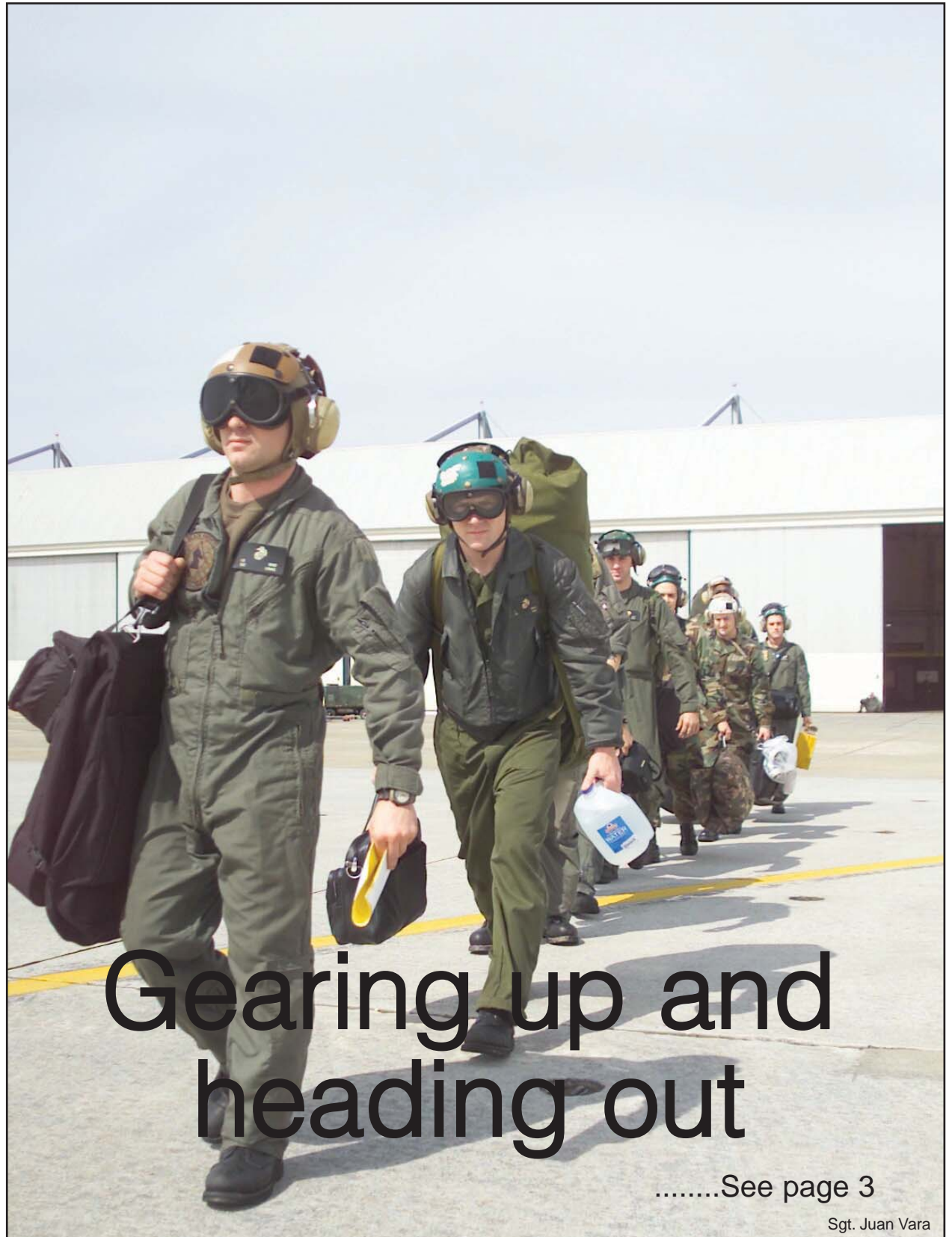
SecNav makes New River priority.....Pg. 6



Making a point on the tip of the spearPgs. 10, 11



What can the USO do for you?.....Pg. 20



.....See page 3

Sgt. Juan Vara

FLIGHTLINES

Lost and Found

Several bicycles and scooters have been turned in to the lost and found at the Station Provost Marshal's Office. If you are missing your bicycle or scooter, call 449-5734.

Spouses Night Out

The Jacksonville Women's Social Club will sponsor the Event "Spouses Night Out", for the spouses of deployed military personnel.

The Jacksonville Women's Social Club is a non-profit organization whose primary function is to provide events for military and charitable organizations in the Jacksonville Community.

The event will be held at the (MCCS) Tarawa Terrace Community Center. Saturday, March 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. Showtime Production will sponsor a Spring Fashion Show "Fashion Fantasy" for the evening. There will also be entertainment, door prizes and hors d'oeuvres.

The event is free. It also includes free sitter service. Due to the capacity of the building (200), spouses will have to register for the event. Registration will be at the Tarawa Terrace Community Center by calling 450-1687 or drop by.

For any further information needed call Lee Sloan, president at 353-8157 or Gerri Waters, secretary at 577-8452.

Changes to Dental Clinic Working Hours

The new working hours for the New River Branch Dental Clinic are:
Monday - Friday:

7 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1 - 4 p.m.

Emergencies and walk-in for exams:

7 - 11:30 a.m.
1 - 4 p.m.

For all dental emergencies after hours please report to the Naval Hospital aboard Camp Lejeune.

Women's Self Defense Class

The USO of Jacksonville, located on 9 Tallman Street, is offering a free women's self defense class, March 13 at 5 p.m. A valid military ID card is required for this class. Call 455-3411 for additional information.

New Laser Treatment for Smooth-Looking Skin

Sailors and Marines who suffer from pseudofolliculitis barbae (PFB), also known as "razor bumps," "shaving bumps" or "ingrown hairs," now have a new laser treatment option. PFB is a common condition that occurs primarily in African American men and other people with curly hair. The problem results when hairs grow back into and under the skin after shaving, to form a small curled mass within the skin. As a result, the skin becomes inflamed and over time, can cause scarring and discoloration. According to statistics, as many as 60 percent of African American men suffer from PFB, which concerns the military services. Last fall, the National Naval Medical Center's Dermatology Clinic at Bethesda, Md., acquired two new lasers that will treat PFB

and large birthmarks, or port wine stains, in newborn babies. The procedure lasts about 15 to 20 minutes, and the hair removal is fairly permanent. After a patient has undergone a full set of treatments, shaving is no longer required because the beard won't grow.

For more details, log on to www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=6049.

New Way to Access MyPay

MyPay, formerly known as Employee Member Self Service (EMSS), is making life a little easier and making the process of gaining access a lot friendlier. Now you have the option of interacting with an actual person rather than a computer terminal. In accordance with Pay and Allowance Advisory Notice (PAAN) 17-03, the local Finance Office/Disbursing Office has been authorized to establish a "one-time-use" personal identification number for access to MyPay. This new initiative is focused on, but not limited to, personnel residing in the barracks.

MyPay PINs will be assigned to individual Marines only, by a Terminal Area Security Officer (TASO) within the Finance Office. PIN requests / assignment will take place each Monday between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. Your one-time-use pin will be activated 48 hours after assigned. Once you utilize the PIN, a built in security feature of MyPay will require the creation of a new PIN.

Additional information concerning MyPay can be located at www.dfas.mil/mypay/.

Note that "PIN on demand" is still operational from within the MyPay Web site.

Women's History Month Luncheon

Scheduled for March 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officer's Club. Lunch will be catered by the O-Club. The guest speaker will be Elsie P. Smith, Mayor, City of Jacksonville.

MCCS One Source

MCCS One Source is an information and referral system, linking Marines and their family members to both military and community resources.

There are a wide variety of resources available on topics including parenting and childcare issues, education services, financial information and counseling, legal, elder care, health and wellness, crisis support and relocation. It is designed to help Marines better manage competing time demands, such as purchasing a vehicle, locating a plumber, or locating a youth program. It is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

MCCS One Source is accessible by telephone or the Web.

By phone:

(1) The toll free number in the Continental United States is: 1-800-433-6868.

(2) For family members with special needs, the TTY/TDD phone number is: 1-800-346-9188.

(3) A Spanish language line is available at 1-888-732-9020.

By the Web: www.mccs-onesource.com. The user ID is: Marines; and the password is: Semper Fi.



Commanding Officer
Col. Dennis T. Bartels

Executive Officer
Lt. Col. Karl S. Elebash

Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. Virgil G. Dwyer

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Rob James

Public Affairs Chief
Master Sgt. Timothy J. Shearer

Press Chief
Sgt. Juan Vara

Editor
Cpl. Josh P. Vierela

Joint Public Affairs Office Staff
Staff Sgt. Pat Franklin
Sgt. Matthew O. Holly
Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Combat Visual Information Center
Gunnery Sgt. Richard Small
Sgt. Arthur Stone
Lance Cpl. Joe M. Ellickson
Pfc. Steve A. Zilch

Disclaimer

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of the RotoVue are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the DoD, or the Joint Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Air Station New River.

The RotoVue is published by Landmark Military Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the DoD, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, or the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with MCAS New River.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD or military services, or Landmark Military Newspapers, of products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Joint Public Affairs Office. For information regarding content, contact Joint Public Affairs Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station New River, PSC Box 21002, Jacksonville, NC 28545-1002.

If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

Reserves flock with birds of active-duty feather

Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs
correspondent

Reserve Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron-471 replaced their active-duty counterparts (MWSS-272) here, last month.

Marines from Headquarters MWSS-471, at Minneapolis, Minn., and supporting detachments A and B from Johnstown, Penn., and Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., packed up and humped south to fill immediate positions emptied by the "Untouchables" of MWSS-272 and personnel from MWSS-273 and MWSS-274. The active duty squadrons deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other contingencies that may arise.

"We are a force multiplier for 2nd MAW [Marine Aircraft Wing] and II MEF [Marine Expeditionary Force]," said Lt. Col. Bill M. Black, MWSS-471 commanding officer. "When MWSS-272 rolled out, we sustained operations here."

The mission of MWSS-471 is to ensure all essential aviation ground support - airfield support, motor transport, engineering, military police, food service, weather, etc. - is provided. In fulfilling their task, these Marines must also train in preparation for the possibility of deploying themselves.

"In conjunction with duties the Marines are already undertaking, a fairly ambitious training schedule has been instituted," remarks Sgt. Maj. David P. Tallant, MWSS-471 sergeant major.

According to Lt. Col. Joseph F. Gately, MWSS-471 executive officer, the Marines are consistent with their annual training requirements, but this extended active duty time will make for more well-rounded Marines. Gately is confident in the capability of his Marines.

"Because of the Marines' wide variety of civilian occupational skills," explained Gately, "their ability as Marines in their MOS (military occupational specialty) are

well beyond the normal capacity in the Marine Corps."

According to Tallant, reserve Marines are engaged in careers, continuing education and families. It takes a great deal of self-discipline to balance and maintain the standards of the Corps with their civilian agendas. Although the transition from a reserve component to the active-duty element is a rough one, the maturity of the reserve Marines allows the conversion to go smoothly.

"The Marines look at this as an opportunity to improve on their skills," said Tallant. "We see this as a chance to leave here better than we came - physically, professionally and mentally. Their morale is high and they are up for the challenge."

This is not the first time a supporting squadron of Marine Wing Support Group-47 responded to the challenge left by its active-duty comrades.

Beginning in August of 1990, following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, members of MWSG-47 were mobilized in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Reserve Marines from every MWSG-47 subordinate unit were activated to fill vacancies in the Fleet Marine Force and supporting establishment as well as for assignment to Southwest Asia. By June of 1991, all MWSG-47 Marines had returned home.

Today, MWSG-47 is the largest Group within 4th MAW consisting of approximately 2,800 Marines located at 12 sites across the country. Of that, approximately 600 Marines and sailors hail from MWSS-471.

"They knew when they joined of the possibilities," explained Tallant. "They heard the call and responded."

Black said these Marines are here because they want to be.

"They understand their purpose and are prepared to do any mission called upon," he added.

Major Gen. John G. Castellaw, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, expressed his appreciation and confidence in Marine Wing Support Squadron-471, Feb. 25, welcoming the recently activated unit here. The squadron replaced its active duty counterpart, MWSS-272, who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other contingencies.



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs



Sgt. Juan Vara

Marines from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 walk across the flightline to board a CH-46E helicopter as they depart New River.

'Black Knights' lift off as 26th MEU's ACE

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 departed New River, March 5, as the Aviation Combat Element of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

Major Gen. John G. Castellaw, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, stopped by their hangar, Feb. 25, to bid farewell to the Marines and Sailors in the squadron.

"The 'Black Knights' have a tradition of professionalism and other elements that make them a great squadron," said Castellaw, who as a lieutenant colonel commanded the squadron. "They've been training hard and have the right people leading them."

The squadron is reinforced by detachments of local squadrons Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461, HMH-464, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26, and Marine Wing Support Squadron-272.

From MCAS Cherry Point come detachments of "Bulldogs" from Marine Attack Squadron-223 and "Dragons" from MALS-14.

Colonel Andrew P. Frick, 26th MEU (SOC) commanding officer, said he is confident of the squadron's abilities.

"They are prepared to do whatever they're tasked to," stated Frick. "They have a great reputation and great history."

According to Castellaw, more than 7,000 Marines and 232 aircraft assigned to 2nd MAW are currently deployed.

"While they're gone, we're going to make sure that their families are well taken care of," he added.

To learn more about the 26th MEU (SOC) visit www.26meu.usmc.mil for the most up to date information regarding their training and current deployment.

Sergeants, do you have what it takes?

**Master Gunnery Sgt.
Billy D. Stewart**
contributor



I hope the headline of this article got your attention. The very subject keeps my attention and concern on a daily basis. Do I have a bone to pick with sergeants or a proverbial axe to

grind? Maybe I do, and maybe I don't. That decision is subjective to your perception of the qualities and the abilities I will present to you in the following paragraphs.

The current state of the Marine Corps promotion system is on the "fast-track". The average sergeant might only spend from one to three years time in grade before being eligible for promotion to staff sergeant. This is a staggering concern for many Marines. I have been included in many discussions concerning the leadership abilities, intestinal fortitude and dedication levels of today's Marine sergeants. As always, I try to keep an open mind and utilize my listening skills when involved in these types of discussions. However, through comments from Marines of all ranks and my own personal observation, I feel this subject needs to be discussed.

In my opinion, we have a number of E-5s running around our Corps, not sergeants. A population of sergeants exists that cannot lead and operate at the level or in the capacity they are needed to. That may be a hard pill to swallow, but extremely strong sergeants are a luxury nowadays. Rest assured, we have some great sergeants. I cannot argue that fact. The truth of the matter remains that we can do better. In this article we are going to concentrate where the rubber meets the road, the rank of sergeant. I'm not going to regurgitate a checklist for you, or give you a "how to" article. I will merely discuss a number of minimal skills, qualities, and abilities that a sergeant must possess to be truly effective. Through personal insight, I'll attempt to paint a picture for you, of how things "used to be" when I came up as a young Marine. Sergeants were very strong and aggressive. I often find myself comparing sergeants of

today to sergeants who I served with as a drill instructor, or that mentored me through the ranks as a junior Marine in the Fleet Marine Force. You can be the judge and the jury in this case. If the shoe fits a situation that you're involved in, wear it and change it. Let's take a step back in time.

The Corps has changed so much in the last 20 years. Most of my peers obtained the rank of sergeant within two to six years of service in the Marine Corps. Some of us were barely of legal age as we found ourselves in charge of endless tasks, duties, responsibilities and a large number of Marines. At 22 years of age I graduated my first platoon as a senior drill instructor. I had about four years in the Corps at the time. My two junior drill instructors were sergeants and had about the same time in service as I did, give or take a couple of years. That may sound odd, but it was a reality.

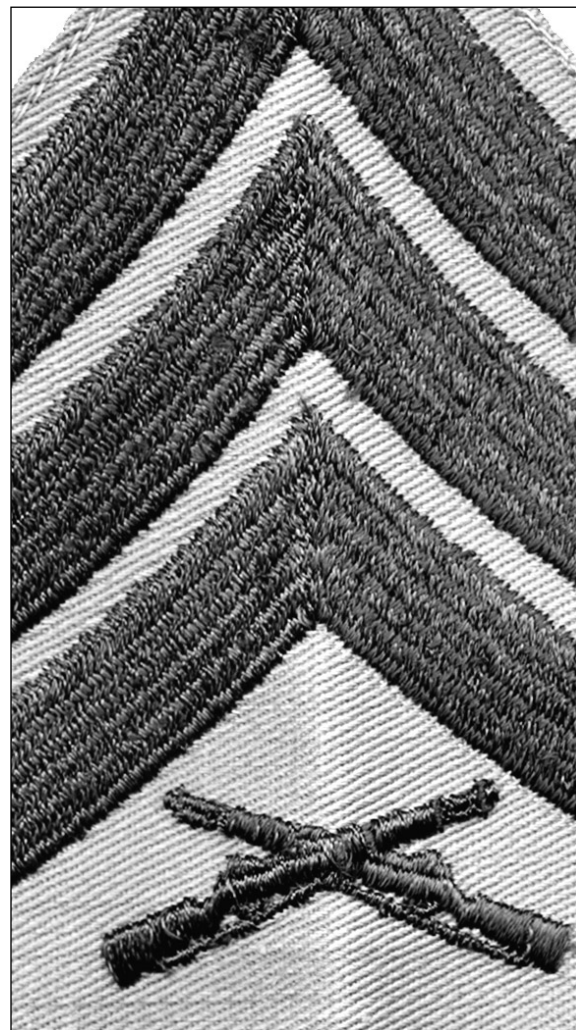
Interesting enough, the sergeants of yesteryear did not have the wide array of Professional Military Education that is available today. Instead, they were self-starters who possibly had attended noncommissioned officer school if they were fortunate enough. Every sergeant who I knew could conduct close order drill, march and control a platoon, hold a formation, and conduct Marine Corps physical training. Sergeants on weight control or running anything less than a first class physical fitness test were unheard of.

As young Marines, my peers and I found ourselves raised and mentored by sergeants who knew our whereabouts at all times. We checked out with the sergeant before we went anywhere. The sergeant would constantly hold us accountable through concerned and constant supervision. The sergeants would make their presence known stopping by the barracks to check on us throughout the week and on weekends. I knew his first name, but I would never address him by it. The only social setting we would see him at was if we attended "bosses night". Even while he was there, his military presence was evident. He would always socialize with other NCOs. When we made corporal, the sergeants would bring us into the fold, but would still maintain their professionalism, all the while prepar-

ing us to be sergeants ourselves. They did this through setting the example, plain and simple. Let's dissect this concept a little further.

I never saw the sergeant late for work, needing a haircut, not squared away or without his log-book. My sergeant was at work before I was, and left after I did. I developed great habits because he ingrained them into my "brain housing group" on a constant basis. Unlike today, sergeants were like irritating gnats; you could never get away from them. Their presence would follow you everywhere. Whether they were making uniform corrections, telling you to spit your chewing gum out or to take your hands out of your pocket, they cared immensely about setting the right example. Not only was the presence of sergeants a trait to be respected, their concerned leadership was never in question. Let's review a few of my past experiences.

I would only talk to a staff non-commissioned officer if the sergeant could not handle my question or problem. Many times, if my sergeant did not know the answer, he would liaison with the SNCO or officer-in-charge to assist me. If any of us jumped the chain of command without his knowledge, we would owe him, and he would collect in many ways; all of which were unpleasant and training tools to remind us that he was in charge. He constantly counseled us, both positively and negatively if needed. Proficiency and conduct were never a surprise, because we always knew where we stood. He taught me everything about taking care of my own. I sometimes would see the sergeant standing up for us when discussing issues with the 'gunny'. The gunny was hard on him, but he never complained or bad mouthed his superiors. The sergeant's personal life was never an issue. I never knew of him acting irresponsibly with his finances or family.



He was always dressed professionally; wearing a belt with his shirt tucked in when I would see him on liberty.

Finally, it seemed that he knew everything about our military occupational specialty. When I would ask him a question, he would make me look it up in the MOS manual before he would answer it. We attempted to answer it ourselves before he would help us. Little did we know that he was preparing us to stand on our own. I felt his sole purpose was to develop me as a Marine. He certainly did that. My image certainly reflected an image of him; a Marine.

Words cannot express the feelings of pride that I feel when I see a confident sergeant organized, concerned and "sold out" to the Corps. There is something special about the vigor and military presence of a squared away sergeant who has stood the test of time since the Corps' beginning.

Chesty Puller once stated "There is nothing better than a sergeant." We as Marines need to ensure that this legacy lives on. Semper Fi.

Force Protection condition Bravo

Col. Dennis T. Bartels
MCAS Commanding Officer



You may have noticed over the past few weeks that the station has raised its force protection condition to Bravo. This condition of greater security and vigilance followed the national movement last month to condition orange or high. While the nation has again receded to condition yellow, we remain at Bravo.

Our current FPCON, mandated by the commander of Marine Corps Air Bases East, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Flanagan, indicates that there is an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity. While higher headquarters set the movement to Bravo, conditions may warrant implementation of a higher force protection condition.

When it comes to our security it is likely that most people associate it with those who hold it intrinsic to their job, such as the Provost Marshal's Office. However, it is the responsibility of all who work, reside, and play aboard Station to assist in keeping everyone safe. While our provost marshal shoulders a large part of the burden of security I still need your help; every Marine aboard New River is a set of intelligent eyes and ears.

Many may not be aware of their responsibility at the various threat conditions, but we all have a role that goes beyond simply being patient as identifica-

tion cards are checked at the gate or at some other randomly established checkpoint. I would like you, as a member of the MCAS New River community, to help our military police and me protect our station, and in order to do so, you need to understand and adhere to the measures outlined for the various threat conditions as specified in Air Station Order (ASO) 3302.1. A quick review of the Order will bring home the reality that we all share in the role of force protection and there are requirements within this Order that go beyond the services provided by military police and the security forces.

I won't enumerate the details of the Order but will stress that under current conditions it is prudent for us all to be alert, even proactively inquisitive about strangers, particularly those carrying suitcases or other containers. Look out for suspicious vehicles within the installation or near the perimeter and report them to PMO. Screen incoming mail, scrutinize it carefully for any oddity.

We need not look far into recent history to find evidence of bombs and biological agents being delivered through the mail.

The heightened threat or force protection conditions are not designed to instill fear or paranoia. They serve a reminder that there are evil people who intent to harm us - or our nation. They remind us that we must be vigilant, aware of and attuned to our surroundings while enjoying our freedom.

When you encounter anything that appears to be out of the norm, report it to the provost marshal at 449-6111.

What you can do

The following things guide actions at our current threat condition. These are prudent steps that will assist in guaranteeing our continued safety. For more detailed information on your responsibilities at our current threat condition, please see ASO 3302.1.

Commanders and facility managers should require personnel to inspect the interior and exterior of buildings for suspicious objects and secure areas not being used. Although all commercial and vendor vehicles are searched at the military police's vehicle inspection point, searching vehicles and deliveries at their destination provides a layered defense which improves effectiveness and builds a stronger security profile.

Review emergency plans and orders. Also ensure recall rosters are up to date. Consider requiring essential personnel, such as heavy equipment operators and emergency services personnel, report destinations and return times when departing places of duty.

Consider moving items such as cars, crates and trash containers at least 25 meters from buildings, particularly those of a sensitive nature.

Finally, commanding officers should reduce access points of buildings under their control, institute random ID checks, and direct 100% identification card checks at buildings which contain high value targets.

Editor's note: If you would like to receive a Level I Antiterrorism briefing, please contact the provost marshal.

Use of reflective gear not an option: It saves lives

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

With spring just around the corner and the temperatures rising, a large number of personnel aboard New River are opting to pound the pavement during hours of darkness rather than log a few miles on the treadmill.

Though the risk of injury is present in both situations, the damage you may suffer from losing your balance and falling off the treadmill would be less than if a car strikes you because you failed to make yourself visible in the darkness.

On any Marine Corps installation, the use of reflective gear while conducting physical training in the morning or at night is not an option. Marine Corps Order 5100.19E states that personnel shall wear reflective clothing, vests or belts during periods of reduced visibility.

"Pedestrians blend into their sur-

roundings during decreased daylight," said Marie L. Silence, safety specialist at the Station's Safety and Environmental Affairs Office.

"Runners, bicyclists and pedestrians have a responsibility to themselves and their families to practice ORM [operational risk management] and use common sense when sharing the road."

According to Silence, reflective gear has been a part of initial gear issue for all Marines since October 2000.

"If vests or belts are not issued by a Marine's unit, the individual is responsible to purchase the gear," added Silence. "The small monetary cost doesn't compare to the cost of pain and suffering if you're run over by a motor vehicle."

Military police officers aboard Station have the right to stop anyone they see disobeying the Order. According to Sgt. Jason M. Callon, military policeman, individuals are given a verbal warning and transported

to the point where they started their run.

"We hate to interrupt someone who's working on improving their physical fitness," said Callon. "But it's very important for anyone running along the road to wear reflective gear, especially if they're wearing 'green on green', which prohibits drivers from seeing them."

Individuals found by the military police as repeat offenders are subject to nonjudicial punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Reflective belts or vests can be purchased at the Marine Corps Exchange aboard New River and at Military Clothing aboard Camp Geiger. Prices range from \$2.90 to \$11.99.

"There is no alternative on this matter when it comes to safety and saving personnel from loss of work," added Silence. "Running without reflective gear during hours of low visibility is a mishap waiting to happen."



Sgt. Juan Vara

Reflective gear is a must during hours of low visibility.

SecNav touches base with the Air Station

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Anticipation was in the air as the Secretary of the Navy, the honorable Mr. Hansford T. Johnson, made a visit to New River, Monday.

As Johnson disembarked the C-37 aircraft, he was greeted by Maj. Gen. Robert M. Flanagan, Marine Corps Air Bases East commanding general; Col. Dennis T. Bartels, Station commanding officer; and Col. Douglas F. Ashton, Marine Aircraft Group 26 commanding officer.

According to Bartels, the purpose of Johnson's visit was to make his presence known as the Secretary of the Navy. He also wants to touch base with as many military organizations as he can.

After courtesies were exchanged, all were en route to Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302 for more cordials and an awards presentation, in which Johnson had the pleasure to participate. It was a notable ceremony as Sgt. Michele L. Bannister-Pinto was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for professional achievement in the performance of her duties.

Once the ceremony concluded, the Marines formed a school circle around the Secretary of the Navy, so he could address any issues or questions they had.

Next on the itinerary was a look at the static display of helicopters outside the HMT-302 hangar. Johnson took a personal interest in the CH-53E Super Stallion, the AH-1W Super Cobra and the MV-22 Osprey. Incidentally, a brief ride in the Osprey simulator was to follow.

Johnson and his staff promptly headed to the simulator building for this demonstration. His pilot during the simulated flight was Maj. Paul J. Rock, a Knoxville, Tenn., native, now the maintenance officer of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204.

"It was my first time flying with the Secretary of the Navy, and he did fine," said Rock. "His experience was as a fixed-wing pilot and this was the first time he flew in our tiltrotor simulator."

According to Johnson, the simulator at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., seemed to be in its test phase while the simulator here was at a training level. He was very impressed by the Osprey simulator even though it brought out his rusty flying skills.

"This one seemed to be more realistic and more from a training standpoint," Johnson added.

Afterward, Johnson met with members of the Key Volunteer Network and spouses of deployed Marines and was given a brief on the Single Marine Program. He was provided information on events and trips organized by the SMP.

"I was very impressed with the family support programs here," said Johnson. "They have very good programs not only for the married members, but also for the single members."

Johnson's final stop was the Naval Air Maintenance Training Marine Unit to speak to the Marines and see a break down of the Super Stallion. Once the visit was concluded, Johnson and his staff were driven to Station Operations where they boarded their plane to continue visiting Naval military installations along the East Coast.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

The Secretary of the Navy, the honorable Mr. Hansford T. Johnson, presented Sgt. Michele L. Bannister-Pinto with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Monday.

Working behind masks

Lance Cpl. Erik C. Cox from New River's Marine Wing Support Squadron-272's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, helps a fellow ARFF Marine, Sgt. Jason K. Vanaman, adjust his gas mask during the squadron's deployment in Kuwait, March 5. (Right) Sergeant Lawrence E. Crary from MWSS-272, ARFF, does a maintenance check on the hose inside their P-19 fire truck during the squadron's deployment in Kuwait, March 5.



Lance Cpl. Eric A. Archer



Lance Cpl. Eric A. Archer



Sgt. Matthew O. Holly

Running for Fun

The annual Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive kicked off with a 5K Fun Run. The run began in front of the Aviation Memorial, Feb. 28. To show support for the fund raising event, the entire Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron participated. Although the event was for fun, Marines still competed for the best run time. The winner of the 5K was Lance Cpl. Josh E. Getts, a student from the NAM-TRAMAR Unit, with a time of 21:37.

Awards and Promotions

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Promotions

Sgt. D. E. Millard
Cpl. C. E. Fredrick
Cpl. M. L. Holmes
Cpl. M. R. Jelks
Lance Cpl. T. M. Anderson
Lance Cpl. J. A. Ehrie
Lance Cpl. K. L. Espinola
Lance Cpl. A. G. Jahalal
Lance Cpl. C. A. Long
Lance Cpl. K. F. Oswald Jr.
Lance Cpl. J. F. Soto
Pfc. J. P. Dorweiler
Pfc. L. M. Jonesbrowning

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lance Cpl. D. E. Barthel

Good Conduct Medal

Cpl. M. L. Holmes
Lance Cpl. J. M. Brooks

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162

Promotions

Capt. E. L. Griggs
Capt. T. A. Schroeder
Staff Sgt. A. Pabon
Sgt. T. P. Batchler
Sgt. K. K. Murray
Cpl. J. L. Lynch

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Cpl. S. A. Miller

Certificate of Commendation

Cpl. E. P. Knowles

Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204

Promotions

Sgt. E. A. Tinney
Lance Cpl. A. L. Walls

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Gunnery Sgt. Mark P. Bell

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Staff Sgt. Jose L. NunezMartinez

Marine Aircraft Group 26

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Sgt. R. D. SwisherThompson
Sgt. J. F. Zamora
Cpl. R. Gonzalez
Lance Cpl. L. Y. Evans
Lance Cpl. R. L. Boyd

MAG 29 Tip of the Spear

MAG 29 devil docs step up to plate with long-range evacuation

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng
correspondent

USS SAIPAN -- The Marine Aircraft Group 29 medical department is training for something new to help save lives of Marines wounded in combat in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit's medical department, while deployed in 2002, developed a mobile casualty evacuation system. The system is capable of providing initial trauma intervention, stabilization, and other combat casualty care to critically wounded or ill patients during day or night long range helicopter operations. One medical officer and two corpsmen on an aircraft will be able to care for 15 casualties, depending on the type of aircraft utilized.

According to Petty Officer 2nd Class Terry E. Peace, MAG 29 hospital corpsman, the medical officers and corpsmen are training regularly to perfect casualty evacuations. Peace was at the tip of the spear developing the program and is now leading the training of his fellow devil docs.

Using as a guide, the Army's medical evacuation program, which moves wounded from one medical facility to another with medics on

board, Navy Capt. Frank Butler, Naval Special Warfare commander, developed the plan to get Marines off the battle field and to a medical facility while giving them the best chance of survival.

This new operation was necessary because of the changes in warfare and the distances created by superior mobility. The most current change is conducting operations from the sea to great distances inland. Relying on an operational hospital aboard ship, the time it takes to transport injured can be extended to as much as four hours.

"In the past casualties were evacuated from the field by lifts of opportunity," said Peace. "Whatever helicopters were available would be dispatched to pick up casualties without medical assistance."

This created too much of a gap in medical care time, according to Petty Officer 2nd Class Shannon A. Washburn, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 corpsman. "Now the level of care needed will be where it is needed. We will be able to make sure the bleeding and breathing is stabilized. The mortality rate will go down, and we can keep Marines alive until they reach the next level of care," she said.

In the past, a corpsman from the

wounded Marine's unit would provide initial care, but after the casualty was loaded on a medevac helicopter there was a gap in care. The corpsman in the field had to stay with the unit, and there weren't always enough corpsmen to staff helicopters dedicated to medevac.

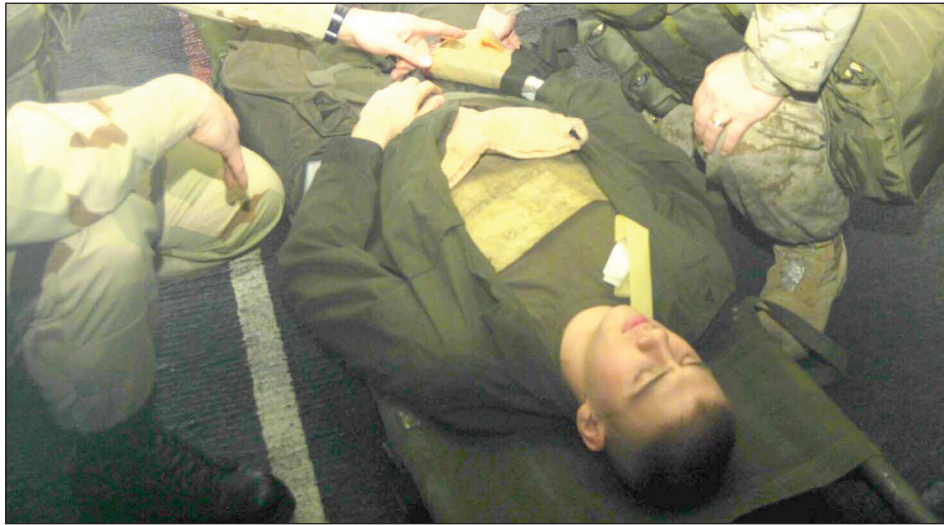
"Either way, someone had to be without a corpsman," Peace continued. "With casualty evacuation the Marine Corps now has the opportunity to remove wounded by a helicopter that is an ambulance in the sky."

The "ambulances" will either be CH-46E Sea Knight or CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters depending on the distance needed to be covered.

Aboard each aircraft the corpsmen will have decontamination capabilities, suction, portable ventilators, oxygen, liters, splints for femur fractures, among other things.

"Pretty much anything corpsmen can't do in the field, we will be able to do on the aircraft," Peace said.

All the equipment in the world would mean nothing without the proper training. The corpsmen attached to MAG 29 were selected for this operation based on skill.



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Hospital corpsman Alfanzo Compres assesses a "wounded" Marine with Navy Lt. Christopher Cornelson, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269 medical officer, during a casualty evacuation exercise to help extend the lives of injured Marines.

Each has been through emergency medical technician training, has had on the job training in all procedures that will be conducted on the aircraft and 75 percent have been through operational emergency medicine training

The corpsmen also have to work closely with the aircrew, to avoid getting in the way. They have to train in all their equipment such as the mission oriented protective posture suits.

"We don't really want to have to use our training," said Washburn. "But the reality is there. Our corpsmen have so much experience, I'm not worried."

Peace agrees with Washburn and believes all the training has paid off. "We have spent so many off-duty hours training as well as during the regular work day that I highly doubt there are any other corpsmen out there who are better trained than we are," he said proudly.

"I couldn't be prouder."

Sergeant Eric P. Peterson, an airframes technician and crewchief from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261, feels the same way. "I've waited for five years to do what I'm trained to, which is defending my homeland. All I have to say is, it's about time," he said.

Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Cochran, MAG 29 fiscal chief, also reflects that pride. "This is an honor and a privilege. Not everyone, whether military or civilian, has the opportunity to make such a great sacrifice for their country," he said.

Gunnery Sgt. David E. Emmert, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269 flight equipment, knows America is the strongest nation out there. "We take on the responsibility of ensuring there is as much free democracy in the world as possible. I feel that being here is what makes the Corps' mission, (ensuring democracy) so important. It's a positive thing, but I would like to

hurry home."

'Hurry home' is a sentiment shared by all the Marines aboard the ship as well as their families back home, but no one wants to leave the job unfinished.

Corporal April M. Kelly, an aviation maintenance administration clerk with HML/A-269, wants to take care of the job now so the Marines don't have to come back in 10 years.

Many just like Cpl. Ronnie A. Tercero, MAG 29 fiscal clerk, and Lance Cpl. Christopher M. S. Wilson, MALS-29 flight equipment, would like to see Saddam's weapons of mass destruction destroyed. They feel America should minimize terrorist threats so they can never strike again.

Chief Warrant Officer Stephen M. Redmond, HML/A-269 avionics officer, would like to see a new government bring stability to the area and possibly secure the rights to some oil fields so they can't be used as a

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng
correspondent

USS SAIPAN -- The Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162 recognized a landmark, or rather airmark, for one of their CH-46E Sea Knights.

Aircraft 02, which has served the fleet for 36 years, reached 10,000 hours of operational flight time, Feb. 19.

Its predecessor was first developed in 1958, and in 1960 the Marine Corps developed a need for a twin-turbine troop/cargo assault helicopter to replace the ones first used in Korea.

Boeing/Vertol was awarded the contract in 1961 and built an aircraft with aft sponsons carrying the fixed main gear, a fixed nose gear and built in emergency floatation provisions so the aircraft could take off from a ship in light seas. They also included power-operated blade folding, integral cargo handling provisions, a rear loading ramp that could be left open during flight, personnel recovery and rescue equipment and provisions for hoisting 10,000 pounds externally. All these features were extremely high-tech for helicopters during that time period.

The first flight of the CH-46A took place in August of 1962, and it was introduced into the fleet in November of 1964. With operations in South East Asia, weapons and armor were added to the package and yet another upgrade was higher-powered engines in the CH-46D models. The final upgrade came with further increased power and fuel capacity in the Echo model.

By 1971, after the last CH-46 was built, 524 Sea Knights had been induct-

ed into the fleet.

Aircraft 02 entered the fleet Oct. 16, 1967, and has served the Marines who fly in it well. The aircraft arrived at HMM-162 in 1977 and was there until 1980. Five years later 02 returned to the squadron, and the Marines put a lot of loving care into keeping the aircraft flying for more than 10,000 flight hours.

The Marine mechanics who work in Airframes, Avionics and Flight Line all have a hand in keeping the aircraft flying high. Each shop specializes in certain areas completing day-to-day maintenance of the aircraft, and they send it through phase inspections every 150 flight hours.

Airframes concentrates on the body of the aircraft itself, said Lance Cpl. Jimmy W. Becker, HMM-162 airframer. Before each flight the mechanics have to make sure the hydraulic system is serviceable, and during phase inspections the Marines take all the panels off the aircraft, inspect the hydraulic system and make necessary repairs.

Avionics concentrates on troubleshooting all the electronics in the aircraft.

"The electronics are constantly updated," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert J. Long, HMM-162 avionics staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "We all have to constantly study to keep up on the technology."

The systems that are on the aircraft now are more sensitive than older versions. The constant vibrations of the aircraft shake the electronics, therefore the systems constantly need to be tweaked to keep them up to perform-

ance. The mechanics also troubleshoot any part of the aircraft that has a wire going through it.

The flight line Marines concentrate on areas such as flight controls, engines and transmissions, as well as rotor heads and blades, said Sgt. William C. Knox, CH-46E crewchief. The mechanics and aircrew inspect the aircraft before it goes up in the air as well as scheduled maintenance such as engine washes to unscheduled maintenance when anything breaks.

"Even though originally 10,000 hours meant the aircraft life was over, Naval Air Depot checks the aircraft so well, that many flight hours doesn't affect the life of the airframe as harshly," said Knox.

Thanks to the rigorous mainte-

nance schedule, 02 has been through almost every deployment HMM-162 has embarked upon, whether in the continental United States or overseas, said Lt. Col. Darrell L. Thacker, Marine Aircraft Group 29 executive officer, who flew 02 with HMM-162 as a young lieutenant in 1986.

"The only reason this bird went over 10,000 flight hours was because of the quality of workmanship in our squadron," said Cpl. Jimmy M. Barnes, crewchief for 02.

"This mile-marker is a testament to how well the aircraft were built and how well the maintenance is conducted," he added. "The aircraft reaching 10,000 flight hours while deployed is poetic justice. This is what the bird was built for."



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Aircraft 02 from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162 comes in for a landing on the flight deck of the ship after completing 10,000 flight hours. HMM-162 is deployed with Marine Aircraft Group 29, the Aviation Combat Element of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (inset) The crew and mechanics of aircraft 02.

Deployment generates pride for Marines

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng
correspondent

USS SAIPAN -- The Marines of Marine Aircraft Group 29 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom are proud to be floating in the Northern Persian Gulf awaiting the order to swoop in on their helicopters and wreak havoc on the enemy.

While working aboard the ship, where all there is to do is eat, sleep and work, many of them have had time to reflect on what the future holds and how Americans are reacting to their efforts. They have a few messages they wish to send.

Many, such as Lance Cpl. Shawn M. Knotts, a wireman from Marine Wing Communication Squadron-28, had to leave their homes quickly when they got the call, and have things that remain up in the air until the war is over, but are happy to be on the tip of the spear.

"It feels good being out here," Knotts said. "I have things back home that need to be protected, and that's what I am doing here."

Lance Cpl. Clay R. Elliott, a flight equipment specialist with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, is following in the footsteps of three generations of men who have gone off to fight America's battles.

"I've always wanted to defend my country," he said.

Hammering away on deployment

Sergeant Nolan Synder, a weather observer from New River's Marine Wing Support Squadron-272, hammers nails into a strongback for a tent-building during the squadron's deployment in Kuwait, March 3.



Lance Cpl. Eric A. Archer

The RoroVue

Get on Schedule with the base Theater

Get in free with military I.D.

Movie times are subject to change. For more information call the base theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.

Wed. 12 March	9 a.m.	Catch Me If You Can	PG-13	140 min.
	7 p.m.	Antwone Fisher	PG-13	113 min.
Fri. 14 March	7 p.m.	Just Married	PG-13	95 min.
	9:30 p.m.	A Guy Thing	PG-13	101 min.
Sat. 15 March	7 p.m.	Just Married	PG-13	95 min.
	9:30 p.m.	A Guy Thing	PG-13	101 min.
Sun. 16 March	3 p.m.	A Guy Thing	PG-13	101 min.
	6 p.m.	Narc	R	106 min.
Mon. 17 March	7 p.m.	Narc	R	106 min.
Wed. 19 March	9 a.m.	Just Married	PG-13	95 min.
	7 p.m.	National Security	PG-13	90 min.
Fri. 21 March	7 p.m.	Kangaroo Jack	PG	89 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Narc	R	106 min.
Sat. 22 March	7 p.m.	Kangaroo Jack	PG	89 min.
	9:30 p.m.	National Security	PG-13	90 min.
Sun. 23 March	3 p.m.	Kangaroo Jack	PG	89 min.
	6 p.m.	National Security	PG-13	90 min.

Hard work doesn't go unnoticed

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

At a ceremony held in New Bern, two individuals were chosen to be the recipients of the North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, Feb. 14.

Although no reward is greater than to help another in need, recognition for the job one does was a great honor for the Station Marine Corps Community Services' director, Paul F. Quinn.

A native of Scranton, Pa., Quinn began his involvement in community services in 1974 while he served as the president of the Marine Corps Recreation Association. During this time Quinn helped to improve the welfare and morale of the MCRA members.

Quinn retired from the Marine Corps in 1980, at which time he was selected to the manager position at Special Services aboard New River. This same year he and his wife, Laura, added a new family member when they adopted their daughter Cortney.

Paul and Laura knew they had a very special child who had special needs, and they wanted to do whatever they could to accommodate her. Cortney was later diagnosed to have multiple handicaps to include autism and a hearing disorder, but that didn't stop her from being just as normal as any other kid.

Over the course of time, Quinn took a more active role in sports as a coach and a player. He participated in the All-Marine basketball, baseball and softball teams.

In 1985, Quinn was promoted to director of Special Services, then promoted to deputy director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation in 1989. That same year, Quinn was selected as the Marine Corps Recreation Director of the year.

He has received numerous civil service awards for outstanding performance, as well as the Superior Civilian Service Award, which is the highest award a civilian can receive from the Marine Corps.

"Paul Quinn is not only an asset to New River, but he is an asset to the Marine Corps and higher headquarters," said Col. Dennis T. Bartels, Station commanding officer. "He is respected as a leader and as the director of MCCR."

Bartels describes Quinn to be an exceptionally dedicated individual, who gives his time and expertise to improve the quality of life for single Marines and families.

According to Bartels, it is his contribution to the families that stands out about Quinn. Because he understands the needs of physically or mentally challenged persons, Quinn has been able to assist parents of children with special needs to better their situations.



courtesy

Paul F. Quinn (second from the left) coaches his basketball team in the semi-finals at the New River Gymnasium, March 1.

Through competitive sports, a means of self-expression and a way for people with special needs to gain self-confidence, he has helped individuals develop a sense of self-worth.

"It's a wonderful thing to see the kids playing ball," said Quinn. "Their faces light up with excitement when they hit or catch the ball and especially when they're running bases."

Through patience, leadership and love, Quinn has fostered an awareness of citizens with special needs in the Jacksonville-Onslow county area. He

has been an example for the community to follow and has mobilized a cadre of volunteers who also give up their time and talents to improve the welfare of an individual. These individuals may not otherwise get to experience sports competition as part of their lives, explained Bartels.

Because of his exceptional work with the community, Quinn also received the Bobby Simpson Memorial Award in 2001, which acknowledges

See AWARD, page 15

AWARD

from page 14

an individual who has made significant contributions to the life of persons with disabilities through public service.

The service and support he has provided to society is a remarkable act of compassion and doesn't go unnoticed. According to Bartels, he is truly a man of the people and there is no doubt why he received the North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. The governor of North Carolina, Michael F. Easley, presented the award to Quinn.

By definition, a volunteer is someone who gives help or does a service freely without any expectation of recognition. They give of themselves for the success of others. Quinn has continuously showed the quality of his character and should be applauded for a job well done.

Another individual, who should be applauded as well, is former chairman of volunteers at the New River office of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Katrina J. Farrell.

Farrell, a native of Acton, Calif., extended her services out to NMCRS in December of 1997. The NMCRS is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting active and retired members of the Naval service. It's a sizable operation with 250 worldwide offices that provide financial, educational and other assistance to Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

The relief society is staffed almost entirely by volunteers, and because of Farrell's belief in helping others whom were less fortunate, she offered her time

freely to those in need, Farrell explained.

"Katrina has been selfless in her devotion to our society, and she has used her education, intellect and honorable moral standards to provide assistance to others," said Sandra N. Isherwood, director of NMCRS.

"Katrina has shown that one person can make a difference in the lives of many."

Farrell began as a receptionist. Her duties included greeting clients, processing their initial applications and assessing the clients' needs. Shortly after, she was given the responsibility of overseeing budget allocations and ensuring all assistance rendered was within NMCRS policy. If a request for assistance could not be met by NMCRS, Farrell would then aid the client with identifying other potential sources.

In 1998, Farrell was sworn in as a Guardian ad Litem for Onslow County. A judge appointed this position, and the duties of the GAL were to conduct independent investigations to determine the best interests of abused and/or neglected children.

In spite of the demands of family life, Farrell continued her work as a civil servant and was recognized with the North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service Feb. 14 by Gov. Easley.

"When I heard what the other list of nominees did to be recommended for the award, I felt humbled because I wondered how I compared to them," said Farrell.

The invaluable efforts of Quinn and Farrell have made a better life for others throughout the Eastern Carolina community.

Coming up on Leatherneck TV

Some of this week's features include: CNN's Beneath the Veil, Future Combat Aircraft, Desert Storm: The Air Assault, Michael's Journey and No Stranger to the Battlefield.

CNN's Beneath the Veil will take you into one of the most repressive and mysterious places in the world, Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. It's the story of not only one journalist's struggle to understand what has happened to her father's homeland, but it's also the story of the dire struggle of a whole nation against evil.

The Taliban government was a strict Islamic regime; what they did to their own people, particularly the women, is heart wrenching. Witness women forced to beg on the streets, children left to starve to death and numerous executions in what was once a sports stadium, all of which are the hideous results of Taliban social policies. It's a heavy-duty subject and some of the video isn't for the weak of heart. Imagine living in a world where the government's spies were watching your every move or the week's entertainment was the execution of your next-door neighbor? Thankfully this is no longer the case as the people of Afghanistan have been given a second chance. Beneath the Veil airs at 8 p.m. and 2 a.m.

A couple of really great programs on aircraft will be flying your way this week. Desert Storm: The Air Assault gives an overview of the Desert Storm air campaign. The air attacks in this campaign have been likened to the intense bombing missions of WWII.

An emphasis is placed on the air raids over Baghdad, scud missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and the Tomahawk cruise missile attacks against Iraqi targets. Watch it at 4:30 p.m. Armchair pilots will want to tune in and watch Future Combat Aircraft. The future of warplanes has never been more exciting and varied. Millions were impressed with the F-16 when it was first introduced. Since then things have really taken off! Study various fighter planes and helicopters; learn the advantages and disadvantages of each. Strap in at 1:30 p.m. and 4 a.m.; you're in for a wild ride!

Michael's Journey beginning at 10:30 a.m. is a two-part program. The first half concerns alcoholism and how it affects the whole family. What is it like to grow up in this kind of family, to be the child of an alcoholic? Listen to real people talk about how it affected them firsthand. Then follow the dramatized story of a young boy, who's dealing with an alcoholic father and the pressure to drink with his peers. Part II, which is titled, Strangers on the Battlefield, enforces the message that sometimes you have to step back and realize the difference between things that can be changed and things that can't. The focus is on young adult issues and the need to communicate with a parent, teacher or counselor. It empowers teens to learn from life's experiences, to cope with the situations in life that make them unhappy. Watch Strangers on the Battlefield immediately following Michael's Journey.

On the homefront

Jacksonville USO remains your home away from home

United Service Organizations offers aid to spouses who need help

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

Because of the recent wave of deployments in support of the president's war against terrorism, thousands of families in the Jacksonville-Onslow County area are temporarily left without "the man or woman of the house".

Ironically as it may seem, as soon as one of the key players in maintaining a household goes away, situations where an extra hand is needed arise. Throughout the community, several organizations have joined efforts to provide support to the families of deployed Marines and Sailors.

The Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, along with the Key Volunteer Network and Marine Corps Community Services, recently launched Project CARE (Community Action Readiness Efforts). Also participating in this venture, are the United Service Organizations, known for many years as the warfighters' "home away from home".

"If a family member has called the Project CARE hotline set up by MCCS [1-800-451-6227] and they can't help them, they are referred to us," said Judy Pitchford, executive director of

the USO of Jacksonville. "That's rare though, because the people at MCCS have been doing great, but our pool of volunteers can always help in any situation."

According to Pitchford, there hasn't been an occasion where the USO has not been able to help. "The only thing we can't do is provide financial assistance paying bills," she added.

Currently, the USO offers several activities that can help some of the spouses of deployed military personnel take up some of their time. Belly dancing lessons, swing lessons, yoga, and women's self defense classes are scheduled for several days of the week at different times.

The USO of Jacksonville, located on 9 Tallman Street, is a family-friendly place, always ready to support families in need whether they have a Marine or Sailor deployed or not.

"We are going to make sure they get the assistance they need," stated Pitchford. "All they need is a military identification card and we will take care of them."

If you would like more information on the USO of Jacksonville, log on to www.uso.org/jacksonvillenc, or contact Judy Pitchford at 455-3411.



Sgt. Juan Vara

Located on 9 Tallman Street, in downtown Jacksonville, the USO offers computers with internet connection, pool tables, movies and a snack bar, providing Marines and families a place to have fun.

USO Scheduled Activities

Monday:

Belly Dancing Lessons 7 p.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Self Defense Class 10-11 a.m.
Yoga 7 p.m.

Thursday:

Women's Self Defense Class 5-6 p.m.

Sunday:

Swing Lessons 7 p.m.